

IT IS WEDNESDAY, BUT SUNDAY IS COMING

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Praise God for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! His resurrection is one of the pillars of true Christianity. It is one of the pillars of our faith. Traditionally, we are told that our Lord was crucified on Friday and arose on Sunday. We cannot accept this, because our Lord made it clear that He would be "three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." He said it this way, "... An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whales's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:39-40). We believe that He was crucified on a fearful, memorable Wednesday. Keep in mind the difference in the days. The Jewish day began at sunset and closed at sunset. The Roman day began at 6:00 A.M. and closed at 6:00 A.M. Our day begins at midnight and closes at midnight.

In our mind's eye, let us stand there at the foot of the cross. What a fearful, tragic day! It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming! The Pharisees and the Sadduces were confidently marching in pride "calling the shots."
It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

His Precious Body is so beaten, torn, bruised, and mauled that you cannot even tell that He is a man. He tenderly prays, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

Satan is well pleased. He and his angels are dancing for joy with fiendish glee! They are sure that they are winning.

It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

The two thieves being crucified with Him cast sarcastic, facetious criticism at Him (though one later repents and gets saved).

It is Wednesday But Sunday is coming!

He commits the care of His mother to John, the beloved disciple and breaks all physical relationships with her. She is no longer His mother! Tradition says that she fainted, and we doubt it not. A sword twisted in her bosom (though she found it far more wonderful to be the daughter of the Christ than the mother of Jesus). It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

From twelve noon until 3:00 P.M., there is great darkness. The face of the sun is hidden. He is totally silent for these nearly three hours, and then He cries, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? He is suffering all Hell for all sinners for all sins, the hell that they would have had to suffer in the lake of fire and brimstone.

It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

During these three hours of darkness, there is a dreadful silence. In the last hour, He cries, I thirst," "It is finished," and "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit." He is dead!

It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

Yes, beloved, He is dead! He is not asleep; He is dead! He is not fainting; He is dead! He is not playing dead; He is dead! He is not holding His breath; He is dead! He is not swooning; He is dead! He is not blacking out; He is dead! He is not semiconscious; He is dead! He has not passed out; He is dead! Oh, let Heaven, earth, and Hell hear! He is dead!

It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

His disciples are all scattered. Five of them stand at the foot of the cross (four women and one man). He is dead! Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus get permission to bury His body. He is dead!

It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

Three days and nights of tragic sorrow, sadness and hopelessness are just ahead for His disciples. He is dead!

It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming! Surely, Satan and all of his cohorts (all the forces of Hell) are shouting. He is dead!

It is Wednesday, but Sunday is coming!

Jesus was on the cross from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. (seven hours--God's number, the perfect number, the ultimate number). He was taken down and placed in the tomb just before sunset (the ending of the Jewish day) because the day that began at sunset was a Sabbath. It was not the regular weekly Sabbath but the Passover Sabbath (a high Sabbath). "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day), besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away" (John 19:31). Thursday at sunset, He had been in the grave one day and one night.

It is Thursday, but Sunday is coming!

Friday at sunset, He had been in the grave two days and two nights. It is Friday, but Sunday is coming!

Saturday at sunset He had been in the grave three days and three nights. It is Saturday, but Sunday is coming!

Praise God! Sunday did come! As it began to dawn toward the first day of the week (at sunset on Saturday on the Jewish calendar), He arose!!!! He arose forevermore!!!! It was Wednesday, but now it is Sunday!

His substitutionary, atoning sacrifice is accepted. Our sins are put away forever. Now, Praise God! It was Wednesday, but Sunday is now here!

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you" (Matthew 28:5-7). (Used with permission from the book *At The Cross* by James W. Crumpton)